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COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0606

September 8, 2006

The Honorable John Bolton
Ambassador
United States Mission to the United Nations
140 East 45th Street
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ambassador Bolton,

As the 61st session of the United Nations General Assembly convenes this week, we would like to ask that you support membership in the United Nations for Taiwan.

Taiwan is a stable, democratic presence in Asia, a bulwark of support for human rights and a world economic power, home to a thriving multi-party democracy, with free and fair elections held at all levels of government. Taiwan is a responsible nation that has long demonstrated its commitment to international cooperation.

Despite the fact that it is not a member-state, Taiwan has heeded calls by the U.N. for emergency relief and assistance to countries that suffer disasters and wars. Taiwan's generosity and humanitarian efforts have included aid for refugees in Kosovo, reconstruction in Afghanistan, food and supplies in Iraq, anti-AIDS efforts in Africa, help for victims of disasters in El Salvador, Turkey, Nicaragua, and even New York City in the wake of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Ambassador Bolton, the so-called "One China" policy is an anachronistic relic of a time that has long since passed. Taiwan is no longer ruled by an autocratic dictator claiming to rule all of China. It is an independent nation which controls its own borders, dictates its own foreign policies, maintains its own armed forces, manages its own economy, and most importantly – elects its own leaders. It is, by all measures, a sovereign country – and it should be treated as such.

We often hear the argument that Taiwan's 23 million people are 'represented' by the People's Republic of China (whose government routinely threatens to attack Taiwan and is currently pointing some 800 missiles at the island nation). While the notion that the people in Taiwan are effectively represented by communist China might be politically convenient, no reasonable person in their right mind accepts this preposterous contention.

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Even you, Ambassador, recognized this fact some twelve years ago when you told a U.S. Senate Committee ***"I believe that the United States should support the efforts of the Republic of China on Taiwan to become a full member of the United Nations."***

We are hopeful that this year, you and the other UN delegates will view the question of Taiwan's representation in the UN objectively rather than simply caving in to Beijing's relentless and irrational pressure.

It is time we stood by our democratic principles and supported Taiwan's effort to gain membership in this world body.

Sincerely,



Tom Tancredo
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Robert Andrews
Member of Congress



Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress